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solidity as a treatment of sociology and less the aspect of a discussion of problems of social justice.

F. H. HANKINS.

Clark University.

Economic History and Geography

English and American Tool Builders. By JOSEPH WICKHAM ROE. (New Haven: Yale University Press. 1916. Pp. xv, 315. \$3.00.)

This book is an admirable study of a topic which deserves the careful attention of historians and economists, but which, probably on account of its technical aspects, has been generally neglected. The author writes the history of machine tools for metal working from the time of Wilkinson, Bramah, and Maudslay down to the present day, casting his book in the form of biographical narrative, and following from one person to another the course of the mechanical inventions which have revolutionized the processes of machine manufacture. He describes the origin of the engine lathe, planer, and miller, and traces the development from them of specialized forms for the varied uses of modern tool building; he sketches the history of standards and methods of measurement, of screw cutting and of gear cutting; and includes an interesting study of the history of the manufacture of interchangeable parts.

No previous book has essayed to cover this broad field. The present author has had substantial printed material on which to draw, for his account of the early period; but for the later history of the subject he has had to depend largely on the information gained by personal interviews and private correspondence, and makes in this part of his work an original contribution of the greatest value. The "genealogical tables," by which he shows the course of descent of improved shop methods from certain centers, such as the works of Eli Whitney and of Robbins and Lawrence, serve to clear up the maze of private enterprises composing the American machine industry, and, like some other parts of his work, are to be prized as highly for the questions that they raise as for the questions that they answer. Here, at the very core of the phenomena that "materialist interpretation" has claimed as its own, personality and idea appear to hold full sway.

Professor Roe, himself an adept in machinery, assumes that his reader knows the difference between a miller and a shaper, between an involute and a cycloidal gear, without the need of being told; and does not make any appreciable concession to the ignorance of most people in matters of mechanical technique. If this restricts the currency among economists of so excellent a book it will be unfortunate.

CLIVE DAY.

Yale University.

NEW BOOKS

ANDERSON, D. R. *William Branch Giles: A study in the politics of Virginia and the nation from 1790 to 1830.* (Menasha, Wis.: George Banta Pub. Co. 1915. Pp. 271.)

Giles had an unusually long public career—nearly forty years—as member of the Virginia legislature, representative and senator from Virginia in the Congress of the United States, and finally governor of Virginia, but has waited until the present for a biographer. He has, however, secured a sympathetic one in Professor Anderson, who has devoted much time and effort to gather the scattered material necessary for such a work. As Giles was primarily a politician, with little or no understanding of economic or financial problems, there is little in his career to interest the student of economics, except as his position on various public questions of his time reflected the attitude of his constituency. Representing an agricultural district he opposed all Hamilton's financial plans, such as assumption, the establishment of a central bank, etc. He also opposed the financial policy of Gallatin, though this time for political reasons. Acting as a supporter of Jefferson, he defended the embargo. He opposed a protective tariff, the money power in all its many manifestations, and the usurpation of power by the central government. Always a man of strong feelings, violent and unrestrained in debate, and with shifting interests and convictions, his life offers an interesting study in psychology as well as politics. For the student of economic history the outstanding fact in this study is the marked effect of early environment and influences upon the political convictions of a man who considered himself extremely independent. The author has made a careful and scholarly study, but has not always been able to escape a certain bias in favor of his subject.

E. L. B.

BABBS, A. V. *Law of the tithe as set forth in the Old Testament.* (New York: Revell. 1915. Pp. 254. \$1.)

BOGART, E. L. *Readings in the economic history of the United States.* (New York: Longmans. 1916. Pp. xxviii, 862. \$2.80.)

To be reviewed.